

The President's Daily Brief

1 April 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1* we analyze domestic aspects of Brezhnev's speech to the party congress.

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We have additional information on the Soviet arrangements with Egypt for developing Mersa Matruh west of Alexandria for use by Soviet naval units. (Page 3)

The army is evidently in considerable trouble in several population centers in the interior of East Pakistan. (Page 4)

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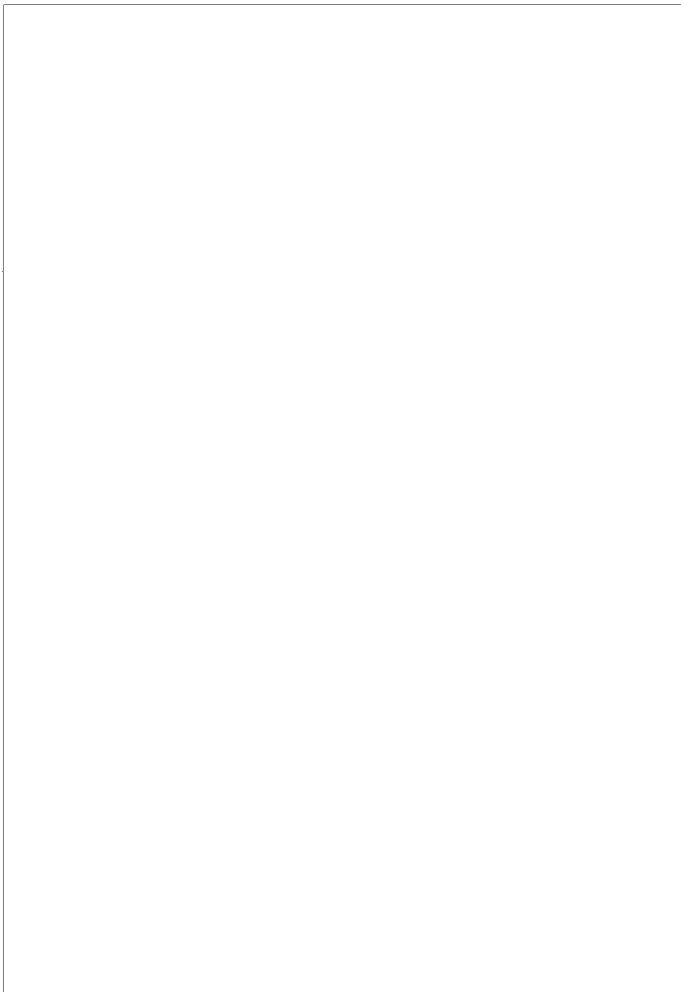
In his domestic program presented to the party congress, Brezhnev voiced a strong commitment to raising the status of the consumer sector during the current five-year plan and beyond. He justified this in terms of the USSR's allegedly strengthened international and economic position and the demands of a modern economy. His lengthy explanation for this emphasis, as well as his disclaimer that this does not violate the party's "general line" on the priority development of heavy industry, suggests that the subject is still a matter of controversy. He announced that the central committee will shortly draw up a program for increasing the production levels of consumer goods.

On party affairs, Brezhnev hinted that a close review if not a purge of party ranks is in the offing. He announced that proposals had been made for issuing new party cards to all members--the first such exchange in 17 years.

Brezhnev handled the Stalin issue with the now standard formulation that the party had overcome the cult of personality, as well as subjectivism (read Khrushchevism). His remarks on Soviet intellectuals suggest that the campaign for ideological conformity will not entail any drastic move against the liberal intellectuals. In a clear reference to liberal novelist Aleksander Solzhenitsyn and his conservative opposite numbers, Brezhnev complained that some writers are obsessed with the "excesses" of the past while others tend to whitewash the Stalin era. He also singled out scientists for their ideological indifference and their tendency to work on problems unrelated to present-day needs of Soviet society.

Brezhnev inveighed against the ideological threat posed by imperialism, but his call for increased vigilance failed to refer to "Zionism" as an internal threat, to political youth, or to wayward intellectuals. Instead, he observed that the state security organs had been strengthened during the last five years with the addition of "politically mature cadres"--a pointed remark in the light of the dismissals during the past few years of KGB officials associated with politburo member Aleksander Shelepin.

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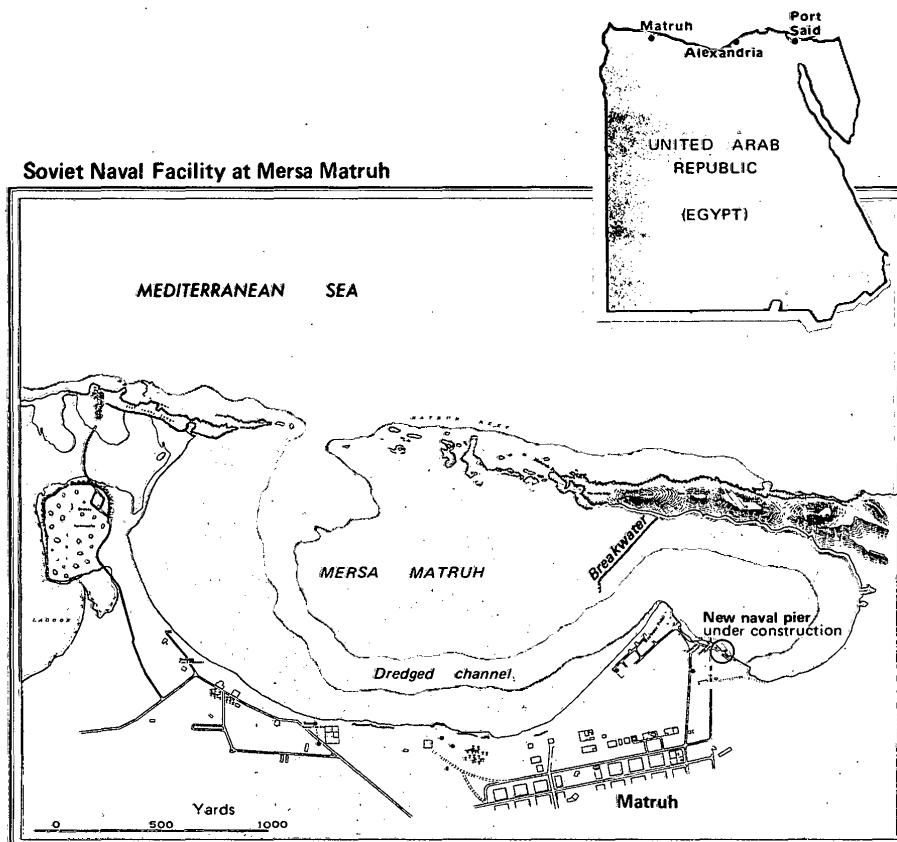
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Soviet Naval Facility at Mersa Matruh



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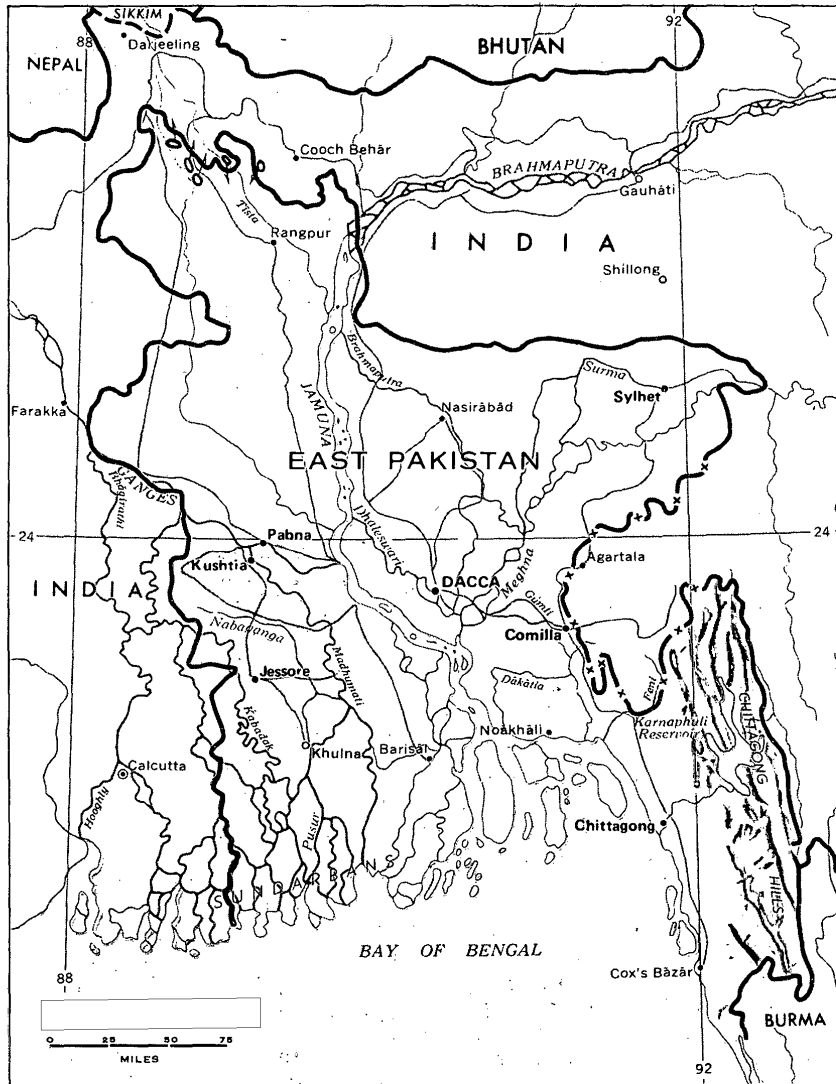
Further information is in hand concerning the development of Mersa Matruh west of Alexandria for use by Soviet naval units.

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[redacted] the movement of Soviet warships into Mersa Matruh indicate that as of last summer this facility was being developed as a deep water port for Soviet use. To date, most of the Soviet naval units that put in there have been support ships, but several combatant ships, including two diesel submarines, have called there. As noted previously in The President's Daily Brief, SA-2s and SA-3s have also been installed at Mersa Matruh and the airstrip has been improved.

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FIGHTING CONTINUES IN EAST PAKISTAN



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PAKISTAN

As fighting continues, the government appears to control most of Chittagong as well as Dacca. The army evidently is in considerable trouble in at least four population centers in the interior, however.

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Despite some local successes, the East Pakistanis are no match for the West Pakistani regulars. Eastern forces are poorly armed, largely untrained, have suffered sizable casualties, and have lost many of their leaders.

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The Indian Parliament yesterday unanimously passed a resolution affirming India's "solidarity with the people of East Bengal," but Indian diplomatic efforts to take the situation to the UN have been rebuffed. U Thant refused to issue a statement the Indians sought, and most Security Council members reacted adversely to India's proposal for a meeting on Pakistan.

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NOTE

Lebanon-Israel-Fedayeen: An increase in fedayeen infiltration attempts from southern Lebanon has resulted in several clashes along the Israeli border.

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[REDACTED] Citing reports of growing fedayeen concentrations in this area, an Israeli military spokesman warned earlier this week that there might be a new wave of attacks on Israeli settlements along the border. Usually such warnings are enough to cause Lebanese authorities to inhibit fedayeen activities; if not, they may well serve as the basis for the Israelis to react on their own.

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